

**Question for written answer E-8225/2010
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Labelling of 'dolphin-safe tuna'

A visit to the supermarket shows that most cans of tuna are labelled 'dolphin-safe'. Many of these labels are awarded by Earth Island Institute (EII); the principal criterion, according to the EII website, is as follows: 'No intentional chasing, netting or encirclement of dolphins during an entire tuna fishing trip'.

The EU has acceded to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program, which has a different definition of 'dolphin-safe'. According to Council Regulation (EC) No 882/2003, dolphin-safe tuna means 'tuna captured in sets in which there is no mortality or serious injury of dolphins'.

These two definitions are very different, requiring quite different fishing patterns. Yet the consumer labels based on them use the same wording.

Given that the EU has a regulation setting out a legal definition of the term 'dolphin-safe', why is tuna labelled with these words on the basis of a very different definition allowed to be sold on the EU market? Should not all descriptions of tuna as 'dolphin-friendly' be based on the same definition? If not, there is a risk of considerable confusion for the consumer.